Amendments of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for using a network of set-top boxes, comprising:

~~connecting~~ providing at least a first and a second set-top box in a network, wherein each of said first and second set-top boxes includes a respective first and second storage device capable of storing programs;

making ~~a~~ said first and second storage devices ~~included in said first set-top box~~ available to said network;

receiving a ~~command~~ request to record a program in said first set-top box ~~which requires at least one of said first and second storage devices~~; ~~and~~

querying said network, with said first set-top box, to determine whether said program is stored in said second storage device included in said second set-top box;

when said query indicates that said program is stored in said second storage device, accessing said program stored on said second storage device over said network with said first set-top box in response to receiving said recording request; and

otherwise, using ~~said~~ at least one of said first and said second storage devices in response to receiving said recording request.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said first set-top box uses said first storage device ~~if~~ when said first storage device is available, and attempts to use said second storage device ~~if~~ when said first storage device is not available.

4.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said first set-top box determines whether said first storage device or said second storage device has more space available and uses the one of said first and second storage devices that has more space available.

5-7. (Cancelled)

8.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 6 further comprising, when said program is not stored in said second storage device:
        examining said first storage device to determine ~~if~~ whether said first storage device has enough space available for said ~~show~~ program;
        ~~transferring~~ recording said ~~show~~ program to said first storage device, ~~if~~ when there is enough space available for said ~~show~~ program;
        examining said second storage device to determine ~~if~~ whether said second storage device has sufficient space available, ~~if~~ when enough space was not available on said first storage device; and
        ~~transferring~~ recording said ~~show~~ program to said second storage device, ~~if~~ when there is sufficient space available for said ~~show~~ program on said second storage device and not on said first storage device.

9.   (Currently amended) A network of set-top
boxes, comprising:

a network;

at least a first and a second set-top box
connected in ~~a~~ said network;

a first and second storage device included in
respective said first and second set-top box~~es~~, wherein
each of said storage devices is capable of storing
programs~~,~~

~~a second storage device included in said second
set-top box, wherein said first second storage devices are~~
and is available to said network; and

a processor on said first set-top box, said
processor being configured to:

receive a ~~command~~ request to record a
program ~~received by said first set-top box which requires
at least one of said first and second storage devices to be
used,~~;

transmit a query to said network to
determine whether said program is stored in said second
storage device included in said second set-top box;

access said program stored on said second
storage device over said network with said first set-top
box in response to receiving said recording request when
said query indicates that said program is stored in said
second storage device; and

~~wherein said first set top box uses~~
otherwise, use at least one of said first and second
storage devices in response to receiving ~~the command~~ said
recording request.

10.   (Cancelled)

11.   (Currently amended) The network of claim 9 wherein said first set-top box uses said first storage device ~~if~~ when said first storage device is available, and attempts to use said second storage device ~~if~~ when said first storage device is not available.

12.   (Previously presented) The network of claim 9 wherein said first set-top box determines whether said first storage device or said second storage device has more space available and uses the one of said first and second storage devices that has more space available.

13-15.   (Cancelled)

16.   (Currently amended) A network of set-top boxes, comprising:

means for ~~connecting~~ providing at least a first and a second set-top box in a network, wherein each of said first and second set-top boxes includes a respective first and second storage device capable of storing programs;

~~means for sharing a first storage device included in said first set-top box;~~

means for ~~sharing a~~ making said first and second storage device~~s~~ ~~included in said second set top box~~ available to said network; ~~and~~

means for receiving a ~~command~~ request to record a program ~~by~~ in said first set-top box ~~which requires at least one of said first and second storage devices to be used~~; ~~and~~

means for querying said network, with said first set-top box, to determine whether said program is stored in

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said second storage device included in said second set-top box;

    means for accessing said program stored on said second storage device over said network with said first set-top box in response to receiving said recording request when said query indicates that said program is stored in said second storage device; and

    otherwise, means for ~~responding~~ using ~~where said first set top box uses said~~ at least one of said first and second storage devices in response to receiving said recording request.

    17.   (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising:

    a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing a computer to use a network of set-top boxes, comprising[[,]]:

    computer readable program code means for causing a computer to ~~connect~~ provide at least a first and a second set-top box in a network, wherein each of said first and second set-top boxes includes a respective first and second storage device capable of storing programs;

    computer readable program code means for causing a computer to make ~~a~~ said first and second storage device~~s~~ ~~included in said first set top box~~ available to said network;

    ~~computer readable program code means for causing a computer to make a second storage device included in said second set top box available to said network;~~

    computer readable program code means for causing a computer to receive a ~~command~~ request to record a program

in said first set-top box ~~which requires at least one of said first and second storage devices~~; ~~and~~

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to query said network, with said first set-top box, to determine whether said program is stored in said second storage device included in said second set-top box;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to access said program stored on said second storage device over said network with said first set-top box in response to receiving said recording request when said query indicates that said program is stored in said second storage device; and

otherwise, computer readable program code means for causing a computer to use ~~said~~ at least one of said first and said second storage devices in response to receiving ~~the command~~ said recording request.

18.   (Cancelled)

19.   (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 17 wherein said first set-top box uses said first storage device ~~if~~ when said first storage device is available, and attempts to use said second storage device ~~if~~ when said first storage device is not available.

20.   (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 17 wherein said first set-top box determines whether said first storage device or said second storage device has more space available and uses the one of said first and second storage devices that has more space available.

21-23.   (Cancelled)

24.   (Currently amended) The computer program product method of claim 22 further comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer, when said program is not stored in said second storage device, to examine said first storage device to determine ~~if~~ whether said first storage device has enough space available for said ~~show~~ program;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer, when said program is not stored in said second storage device, to ~~transfer~~ record said ~~show~~ program to said first storage device, ~~if~~ when there is enough space available for said ~~show~~ program;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer, when said program is not stored in said second storage device, to examine said second storage device to determine ~~if~~ whether said second storage device has enough space available, ~~if~~ when enough space was not available on said first storage device; and

computer readable program code means for causing a computer, when said program is not stored in said second storage device, to ~~transfer~~ record said ~~show~~ program to said second storage device, ~~if~~ when there is enough space available for said ~~show~~ program on said second storage device and not on said first storage device.

25-27.   (Cancelled)

28.   (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising recording said program to said second storage

device prior to receiving said recording request in said
first set-top box.

29.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein
accessing said program stored on said second storage device
comprises retrieving, over said network, said program from
said second storage device, with said first set-top box.

30.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein
accessing said program stored on said second storage device
comprises displaying said program with said first set-top
box.

31.   (New) The network of claim 9, further
comprising a processor on said second set-top box,
configured to receive a recording request prior to
receiving said recording request in said first set-top box.

32.   (New) The network of claim 9, wherein said
processor is further configured to retrieve, over said
network, said program from said second storage device when
said query indicates that said program is stored in said
second storage device.

33.   (New) The network of claim 9, wherein said
processor is further configured to display said program
when said query indicates that said program is stored in
said second storage device.

34.   (New) The computer program product of claim
17, wherein said computer usable medium having computer
readable program code means further comprises computer

readable program code means for recording said program to said second storage device prior to receiving the recording request in said first set-top box.

35.   (New) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein said computer readable program code means for causing a computer to access said program comprises computer readable program code means for causing a computer to retrieve, over said network, said program from said second storage device, with said first set-top box.

36.   (New) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein said computer readable program code means for causing a computer to access said program comprises computer readable program code means for causing a computer to display said program with the first set-top box.